

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14 (canceled without prejudice).

15 (new). A method of testing to detect whether a human female subject is predisposed to Premature Ovarian Failure (POF) the method comprising at least the step of analysing the nucleotide present at position 769 of the gene encoding Inhibin.

16 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the nucleotide present at position 769 of the gene encoding Inhibin of a subject is compared with that of the wild-type gene encoding Inhibin.

17 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the presence of an A at nucleotide position 769 of the gene encoding Inhibin is indicative of a predisposition to POF.

18 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein DNA encoding Inhibin is analysed.

19 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein RNA encoding Inhibin is analysed.

20 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the nucleotide present at position 769 of the gene encoding Inhibin is determined by nucleotide sequencing.

21 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the nucleotide present at position 769 of the gene encoding Inhibin is determined by Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) analysis using the restriction enzyme Bst7II.

22 (new). A method of testing to detect whether a human female subject is predisposed to Premature Ovarian Failure (POF) the method comprising at least the step of analysing the amino acid present at a position of Inhibin corresponding to codon 257 of the gene encoding Inhibin.

23 (new). A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the amino acid present at said position of Inhibin of a subject is compared with that of wild-type Inhibin.

24 (new). A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the presence of threonine at said position is indicative of predisposition to POF.

25 (new). A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the amino acid present at said position is determined by amino acid sequencing.